



FLIGHTLINE

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Powder Puff Pilot and Ninety-Nines Sponsor Flight for Women Pilots of World War II

By Sue Hughes

May 20, 2010 – Aurora, Colorado – It's been 67 years since Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas earned its distinction as the largest all-female air base in U.S. history. It won't seem nearly that long to two Denver-area residents who were former members of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). On Memorial Day weekend, Lucille Doll Wise, 90, of Arvada and Betty Jo Streff Reed, 86, of Aurora will take to the air again to attend the WASP Homecoming 2010, hosted by the National WASP WWII Museum in Sweetwater. They'll be among the honorees welcomed back to where they made history in 1943 and 1944 as the first American women to receive military flight training.



Texas Woman's University, permission required.

Wise was one of 59 women of the seventh class of women pilots (43-W-7) to train at Sweetwater, graduating in November 1943. She was assigned to North Carolina to the Asheville Weather Wing of the Army Airways Communications System, and then to the Kansas City Army Air Base. During her service, she flew the Cessna UC-78, AT-11, C-60, B-25, and C-45. Many of her flights involved transporting weather officers on inspection trips. In 1993, she donated her WASP uniform—trench coat, flight suit, battle jacket, Santiago blue slacks, white wool shirt, and tie—to the WASP museum.

Reed trained at Sweetwater a year after Wise, graduating in the seventh class of 1944 (44-W-7) in September 1944. Her service ended prematurely when the Army deactivated the WASP program in December 1944. She was assigned to Columbus Army Air Field in Mississippi, where she flew the AT-6, PT-17, and AT-10. Sue Hughes and her husband Dale, of Aurora, will fly the former WASP in their four-seat Piper Arrow from Front Range Airport in Watkins (just 5 miles southeast of Denver International Airport) to Avenger Field. "I must admit I'm little intimidated at the thought of these two accomplished, pioneer aviatrixes as back seat pilots," said Hughes, who is also a flight instructor.

Hughes answered the call when a request went out to members of the Colorado chapter of The Ninety-Nines, an international organization of women pilots, for a volunteer to transport the honorees. The trip is sponsored in part by Jan McKenzie, a Colorado chapter member and governor of The Ninety-Nines' South Central section, which includes Texas and Colorado. Hughes is owner and founder of Powder Puff Pilot, a web retailer that specializes in products for and about women pilots, and is the author of a series of children's books that feature a pink clad aerobatic

Alabama Chapter

MEETINGS

JUNE - Air Race Classic will be in TCL June 22 - 25th

AUGUST - The Birmingham Aero Club will be hosting noted author and historian, Sarah Byrn Rickman at the Southern Museum of Flight in Birmingham. She will be talking about her latest book, "Nancy Batson Crews, Alabama's First Lady of Flight". Crews was a Birmingham native, Aero Club member and 99 - she also was one of "the Originals", the first women pilots in the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron. Date is August 19th, at 7 PM in the South Wing of the Museum. More details next month! Reservations recommended , email Holly at Vctrnvxn@aol.com with your number of guests.

Florida Suncoast Chapter

The next meeting in Crystal River, June 12, 10:30 am, will be the last until they resume in September. CarolAnn Garrett will be the guest speaker. She will be presenting her around the world record breaking flight details, delights and challenges. Anyone is invited to attend. CarolAnn speaks and sells her two books about her world travels, proceeds go to ALS foundation. She lost her mother to ALS aka Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Florida Spaceport

June 12th; Installation of new officers. This meeting will be held at the Dixie Crossroads Restaurant on Garden Street, Titusville. We'll meet at 11.

Fly in directions: Fly into Arthur Dunn Airpark.(X21): runway 15-33 is paved, 3000 ft long, 70 ft wide; 04-22 is grass, 1790 ft long, 100 ft. wide. CTAF 123.0, elevation 30 ft. Be sure to let Bobbi know if you are flying in so that ground transportation is available. You won't want to walk the 4-5 miles to he restaurant. (b919r@cfl.rr.com or 321-636-5346)

Driving, use I 95, exit at # 220 (SR 406), go east on SR 406 (Garden Street). Dixie Crossroads is about 4 miles from I 95 on your right.

Georgia Chapter

June 9 —Downwind Social / Dinner— NOTE—change to normal schedule due to other events at PDK— Downwind, PDK, 7pm—Join us for a casual dinner, meet some 99s, and share the joy of flying. (Usual 2nd Wed of even months)

June 13 —ATL Tower Tour— 10am Subject to cancellation based on weather. Must RSVP to georgia99s@yahoo.com Space is limited.

Paradise Coast Chapter



Saturday, Jun 5, 2010 was the Chapter's first Girl Scout Day. 30 something girls met at the EAA building at Page Field, (KFMY) Fort Myers, FL for instruction in aviation, tours of 5 different airplanes, and stuffing of goody bags for the Air Race Classic. This was the first for the Chapter, and first for the girls. Many Mom's attended, too. And some said they may be interested in becoming pilots, when they heard what age some of the chapter members were when they

started training.

Nancy Moore, who recently obtained her CFI rating (CONGRAULATIONS, Nancy!) instructed the girls about different ground school topics. Cheryl Lynn Dratler, talked to the girls about the up coming Air Race Classic, which the Chapter is co-hosting the race start.



After touring a 182RG, Beech Baron, Beech Bonanza, Cessna 172, and light sport plane, the scouts worked on the "bag stuffing" job toward their community service badges. These bags will be given to each ARC contestant. Then it was time for cookies and the girls were each given a goody bag for themselves which the chapter had stuff for them.

Paradise is very busy this month, as they are the start point for the 34th annual Air Race Classic which will terminate in Frederick, MD. Many activities are planned including a dinner 19 June, The public is invited to meet and greet racers at the Paragon Hangar, 6pm for BBQ. Tickets are sold in advance for \$25.00. They are being sold at the Airport FBO, 501 Danley Drive or email the Chapter at: paradisecoastchapter99s@hotmail.com



Announcements:

Air Race Classic: June 18-27, starting Fort Myers, FL terminating Frederick, MD

International Conference: July 5-9, Hawaii

SouthEast Section meeting: October 1-3, Combined with North Central Section, Nashville, TN

If you want to share your Chapter activities with the Section, put me on your newsletter group email. sailawayjb@embarqmail.com

Best Wishes to the Air Classic Racers!